WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for press bending glass sheets comprising:

a heated male mold and a female mold positioned to press a glass sheet between them;

said male mold and said female mold being made from substantially the same material; and

said female mold including at least one heating element disposed within said female mold.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said at least one heating element is configured to heat said female mold to approximately the temperature of said male mold.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the material of the male mold and the material of the female mold have essentially the same thermal expansion characteristics.

4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the material of the female mold is comprised of a ceramic.

5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the male mold and the female mold are made from the same material.

6. An apparatus for press bending glass sheets comprising:

a heated male mold and a female mold, said molds having complementary shaping surfaces and being positioned to press a glass sheet between them, said male mold adapted to be heated to an operating temperature for press bending glass sheets;

said female mold being made from a material having thermal expansion characteristics substantially similar to those of the male mold; and

said female mold comprising at least one heating element disposed within said female mold to heat said female mold to about said operating temperature of said male mold.

7. An apparatus for press bending glass sheets comprising a female ring, which is comprised of a ceramic material.

8. The apparatus according to claim 7 further comprising at least one heating element disposed within said female ring.

9. A method of press bending glass sheets comprising the steps of:

providing a heated male mold and a female mold positioned to press a glass sheet between them, said male mold and said female mold being made from substantially the same material, said female mold including at least one heating element disposed within said female mold; and

pressing a glass sheet between said male mold and said female mold.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein said at least one heating element is configured to heat said female mold to approximately the temperature of said male mold.

11. The method according to claim 9, wherein the material of the male mold and the material of the female mold have essentially the same thermal expansion characteristics.

12. The method according to claim 9, wherein the material of the female mold is comprised of a ceramic.

13. The method according to claim 9, wherein the male mold and the female mold are made from the same material.

14. A method for press bending glass sheets comprising the steps of:

providing a heated male mold and a female mold, said molds having complementary shaping surfaces and being positioned to press a glass sheet between them, said male mold adapted to be heated to an operating temperature for press bending glass sheets, said female mold being made from a material having thermal expansion characteristics substantially similar to those of the male mold, said female mold further comprising at least one heating element disposed within said female mold to heat said female mold to about said operating temperature of said male mold; and

pressing a glass sheet between said male mold and said female mold.

15. A method for press bending glass sheets comprising the steps of:

providing a male mold and a female ring, which female ring is comprised of a ceramic material; and

pressing a sheet of glass between said male mold and said female ring.

16. The method according to claim 15 wherein said female ring includes at least one heating element disposed within said female ring.